

# **PASCOAG UTILITY DISTRICT - BOARD OF UTILITY COMMISSIONERS**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Pascoag Utility District Board of Utility Commissioners will be held on Monday, March 22, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the District office, Pascoag 253 Pascoag Main Street, Pascoag, RI.**

**Members Present: Chairman Albert Palmisciano, Vice-Chair Ann Polacek, Commissioners Thomas Partridge, Dennis Whitman, Brian Choiniere and Adrien Trudeau**

**Members Absent: William Mageau (excused)**

**Also in Attendance: Theodore Garille, General Manager; William Bernstein, General Counsel**

**Chairman Palmisciano opened the meeting at 6:05 pm.**

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Public Comment**

**3. Committee Comments**

**• Finance Subcommittee-The Finance subcommittee didn't have a quorum but Braver made a presentation about the audited financial reports. Mr. Palmisciano stated that the auditing firm was very**

impressed with the operation as a whole and they also commented on how well inventory was conducted. Pascoag Utility District did not receive a management letter which would typically detail any deficiencies.

- **Water Subcommittee**-The Water Subcommittee reported progress, topics will be discussed in Executive Session.

- **Policy Subcommittee**-Policy Subcommittee had met and discussed the General Managers position. Mr. Palmisciano and Mr. Mageau voted to support having two General Managers at last month's Policy Subcommittee meeting and will recommend to the full Board that they support this as well.

#### **4. Good and Welfare of the District**

##### **A. Docket No. 1725**

Ms. Allaire reviewed the customer shut off information. Ms. Allaire stated that zero residential standard customers/residential protected customers were disconnected in the month of February. Pascoag Utility District sent out 168 disconnection notices during the month of February. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.

##### **B. Docket No. 4098**

Ms. Allaire stated that this is a rule making docket for shut offs. It consists of Division staff, National Grid, The Wiley Center, Keep the Heat On and Pascoag Utility District. The group is working together to make the rules easier to understand in the shut off process for customers. They are looking at streamlining the process. Currently

**Pascoag has responded to the 56 page docket with its' concerns.**

#### **C. APPA Safety Awards**

**Mr. Guertin stated that every year the utilities are surveyed for safety. Pascoag Utility District achieved a zero incident rating putting them in first place in group C.**

#### **D. APPA National Membership Committee**

**Mr. Garille wanted the Board to know that Mr. Guertin will be taking over his seat at the APPA National Membership Committee.**

#### **E. Water Use and Government Efficiency Act of 2009**

**Ms. Allaire stated that there are new requirements that came out of this Act. Pascoag meets the rate stabilization component and is working towards installing an AMR system as well. Ms. Allaire feels that Pascoag is ahead of the requirements at this time. Mr. Choniere made a motion to receive and file, seconded by Mr. Partridge. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

#### **F. BHS Project**

**Pascoag Utility District has had a partnership with Burrillville High School to create conservation projects over the past several years. This year the Burrillville High School animation class will be working on animating Pascoag's logo to incorporate more sustainable energy into it. The video production kids will be working on a video explaining the smart grid to our customers.**

#### **G. Thank You**

**Thank you letters were presented from the Northern Club Lacrosse and Booster Club and from Yale University. Motion to receive and file made by Mr. Whitman, seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

- Policy Subcommittee Meeting- February 16, 2010**
- Regular BUC Meeting- February 16, 2010**

**Mr. Partridge made a motion to receive and file seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **6. Unfinished Business**

- 09-03-Action Item: Stonybrook Plant**

**Mr. Whitman made a motion to notify MMWEC of Pascoag's intent to take the off ramp regarding the Stonybrook Plant, seconded by Mr. Partridge. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

- 09-19-AMR Water Project**

**Mr. Guertin spoke about a delay in the meter project due to a sizing issue of the meters.**

- 10-02/10-03-Action Item: Changes to Charter and By-Laws**

**Mr.Choiniere stated that:**

**At a regular meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners at Pascoag Utility District on March 22, 2010. The By-Law and Charter Review Committee forwarded several recommendations for amendments to the Charter. After discussion thereon it was unanimously**

**RESOLVED: that the Charter amendments in the form indicated on the attached Exhibit "A" are approved and ratified by the Pascoag**

**Utility Board of Commissioners.**

**Mr. Choiniere made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

- **10-06- Action Item: GM Position**

**Mr. Whitman made a motion to support Pascoag Utility District having two general managers pending the Charter change, seconded by Mr. Trudeau.**

**There were four votes cast in favor (Whitman, Choiniere, Polacek, and Trudeau), Chairman voted in favor, and one opposed (Partridge). The vote was cast five in favor and one opposed.**

**Mr. Partridge stated that he did not object to either one of the candidates becoming General Manager because he felt each was more than qualified but he felt that there should only be one General Manager.**

- **10-08-Status of Audit**

**Mr. Choiniere made a motion to table the final audit decision to next month's meeting, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

## **7. New Business**

### **10-10-Action Item: ID Theft Policy**

**Ms. Allaire spoke about Pascoag's red flag policy. The Board needs to approve the ID Theft Policy each year. Mr. Partridge made a motion**

to support the ID Theft Policy, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.

#### **10-11- Streetlight Evaluation**

Mr. Garille spoke about the Streetlight Evaluation that will begin this Spring, once the weather is better. The evaluation will begin on Wallum Lake Rd. Pascoag Utility District is trying to reduce the amount of unnecessary streetlights to lessen the streetlight tax burden to customers.

#### **10-12- Spruce Mountain Wind Power**

Ms. Allaire stated that ENE had approached Pascoag about a potential opportunity to purchase power from a wind power facility on Spruce Mountain. If the power was purchased it would equal about 1.5% of Pascoag's power portfolio which would add to the renewable energy portion.

### **8. Financial Reports**

A. Electric Department- not available

B. Water Department-not available

### **9. Executive Session**

To go into Executive Session for the purpose of expenditure of public funds pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(7). The minutes of said meeting shall remain confidential for as long as necessary pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, until a majority of the Board shall vote to open said minutes as provided for an subject to the open meeting law.

To go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2). The minutes of said meeting shall remain confidential for as long as necessary pursuant to RIGL

**42-46-5, until a majority of the Board shall vote to open said minutes as provided for an subject to the open meeting law.**

**Mr. Partridge made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 6:54PM, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

**Mr. Partridge made a motion to exit Executive Session at 7:11PM, seconded by Mr. Whitman. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

**Mr. Partridge made a motion to seal the minutes, seconded by Mr. Choiniere. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

#### **10. Adjournment**

**Mr. Whitman made a motion to adjourn at 7:12PM, seconded by Mr. Trudeau. The vote in favor was unanimous.**

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**Brian Choiniere, Secretary**

**Board of Utility Commissioners**

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**Desarae Downs, Recording Secretary**